



Trail Blazer

Vol. 98 No. 8

TrailsClub.org

August 2025

Outdoor Education and Outreach Trustee Needed

There is an opening for the board position of Outdoor Education and Outreach Trustee for the 2025-2026 term.

Please contact our president at president@trailsclub.org

Save the date: Summer Social

Planning is underway with a tentative date of Sunday, September 7 (or Saturday, September 6th).

August Events

Check the [Trails Club of Oregon website calendar](#) for up-to-date event listings.
Click on the Details Icon for a link to the event.



Details

Aug 6, Wed

Weds Evening Conditioning Hike

Leader: John Koger



Details

Aug 9-10, Fri-Sat

Nesika Open Work Weekend

Leader: Pete Recksiek



Details

Women's Weekend at Tyee

Aug 9-11, Sat-Mon

Leader: Loriann McNeill



Details

Board Meeting

Aug 12, Tue



Details

Weds Evening Conditioning Hike

Aug 13, Wed

Leader: Rebecca Knudeson



Details

Weds Evening Conditioning Hike

Aug 20, Wed

Leader: Bruce Seymour



Details

Weds Evening Conditioning Hike

Aug 27, Wed

Leader: Rebecca Knudeson



Details

Nesika kids stay free weekend Labor Day Weekend

Aug 29 - Sep 1, Fri-Mon

Leader: Linda Conrad



Details

Tyee Lodge open

Sep 2-5, Tue-Fri

Leader: Gerda Eck



Welcome

Provisional Members:

Craig Keller,
Catherine Romanaggi,
Gregory Bishop,
Kathy Ottesen,
Howard Davis,
Rob Parker

First Readings:

Christena Keller – Sponsored by Bill Yandon and Lori Leach

Ember Kauth sponsored by Beverly Drottar and Nina Rohr
Rob Parker sponsored by Pete Recksiek and Jeff Lawton

New Full Members:

Julia Williamson – Sponsored by Sheryl Wagner and Linda Conrad
Lou Lorber - Sponsored by Craig Gwydir and Kate Curry



Principle 1: Plan Ahead and Prepare

Outdoor ethics start before you step outside. Before your adventure begins, smart planning helps keep you and the trails safe. Pack your gear, check the weather, know the route, and always bring the basics (snacks count). Planning ahead means fewer surprises and more time to enjoy being outdoors.

Refreshment incoming: New sponsor, new perks!

Brew Dr. Kombucha is partnering with Trails Club. Here's what it means for you.

Hey Trails Club members,

We're thrilled to announce a new partnership with Brew Dr. Kombucha! That means you'll be seeing free, tasty kombucha at our upcoming social events — all year long. Brew Dr. is a Portland-based brand that makes kombucha the right way: using only organic tea, botanicals, and fruit. No artificial nonsense, just seriously good sips.

We're grateful to Brew Dr. Kombucha for keeping our club refreshed. This sponsorship was made possible by www.sponsor.community.
See you at the next event!



Great news!

Big thanks to Jeff Lawton for his generous donation of a 27 ton log splitter to the TCO!! This will come in handy at both lodges.



Photo: Pete Recksiek - New log splitter

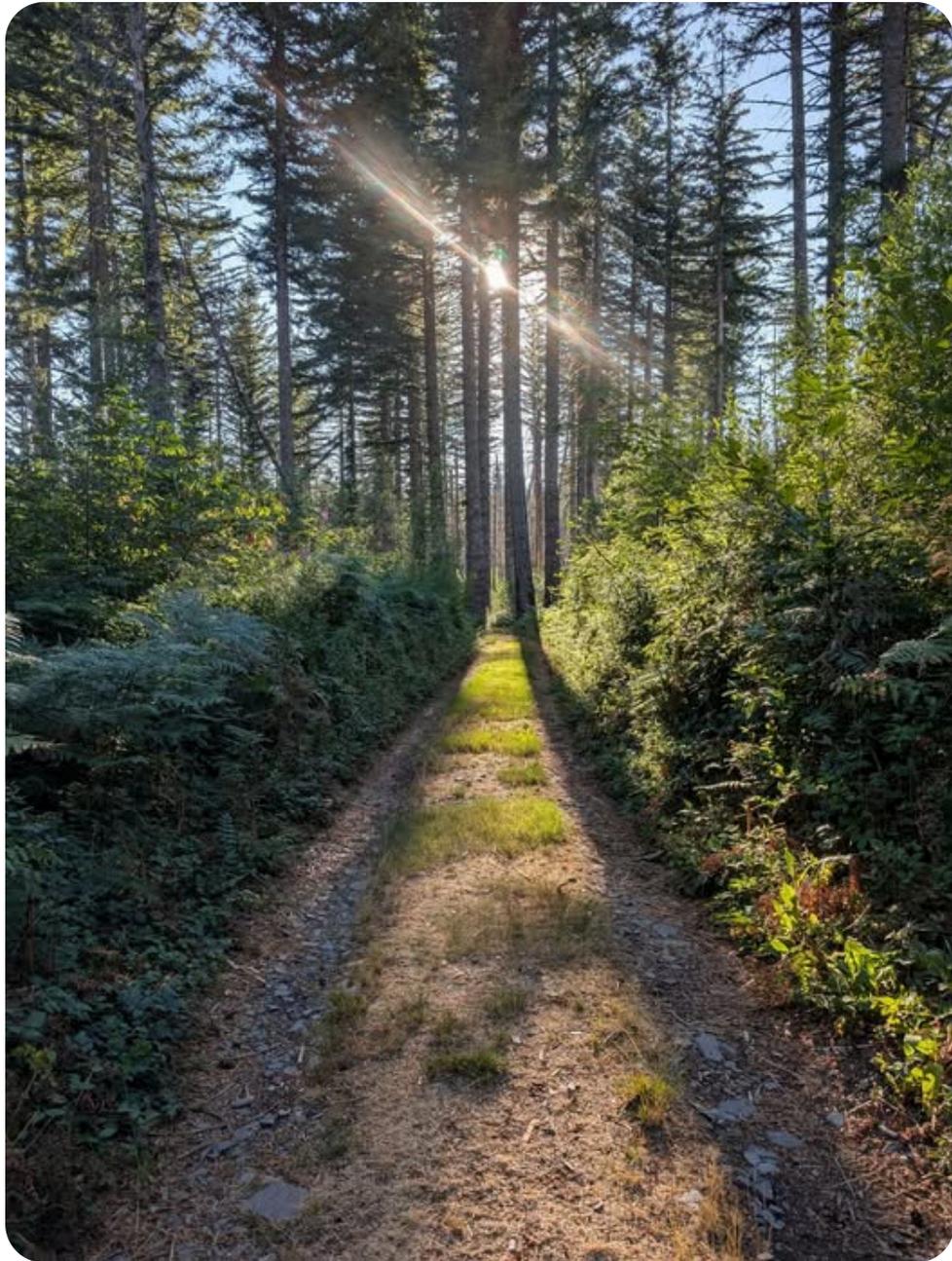


Photo: Craig Gwydir - Basin Road sunset



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Camp Namanu visit



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Inside a cabin at Namanu



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Namanu tree house



Photo: Craig Gwydir - Sandy River at Namanu

Board Meeting

Trails Club of Oregon Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 8, 2025 Time: 7:00-9:00 PM Location: zoom

Attendees:

President: Bev Drottar
Vice President: Eric Zimmerman
Treasurer: Nicole Rogers
Secretary: Rebecca Knudeson
Publications: Joel Reitz
Membership: Lori Leach
Nesika Trustee: Pete Recksiek
Trips Trustee: Craig Gwydir
Outdoor Ed/Outreach Trustee: Vacant
Committee Chairs: Jeff Churchill (Social)

Absent:

Tyee Trustee: Paul Cutter

REGULAR BUSINESS

Minutes were approved on 6/15/25 by email prior to the Blazer publication.

Treasurer's Report, Nicole

Beginning Balance, 6/30/25 :	\$20,020.38
Checks and Payment:	17,001.90
Deposits and Credits:	6,867.75
Cleared Balance:	9,886.23

Comprehensive reports for June financials can be found at: Monthly Treasurer's Reports - Dropbox

The most current Fidelity statement value: \$446,698.

Membership Report, Lori

Reinstatement: Merrill Hugo, Bob Walker

Provisional: Craig Keller, Catherine Romanaggi, Gregory Bishop, Kathy Ottesen, Howard Davis, Rob Parker

First Reading: Christena Keller – Sponsored by Bill Yandon and Lori Leach

Ember Kauth sponsored by Beverly Drottar and Nina Rohr

Rob Parker sponsored by Pete Recksiek and Jeff Lawton

Second Readings unanimously approved:

Julia Williamson – Sponsored by Sheryl Wagner and Linda Conrad

Lou Lorber - Sponsored by Craig Gwydir and Kate Curry

Membership Summary 7/8/25

Total: 245

9 Golden, 2 Junior, 32 Life, 3 Life/Golden, 20 Provisional, 179 Regular

Publications Report, Joel

Nothing to report

Nesika Report, Pete

Bob Walker worked tirelessly on the tractor. He still needs another weekend to finalize repairs. The tractor was pushed back into the garage to allow the trailer to be put into service and allow the Kubota to be stored in the garage. The trailer will be stored outside near the woodshed under a tarp until the garage is cleaned and organized. Fluids and filters were changed on the generator and tractor. Roads and trails were cleared from Larch Mountain to

the lodge, mostly by Craig. Nina did a great job cooking for 2 volunteer weekends. The Kubota was delivered on 6/26 and received by Pete Recksiek. The title and Bill of Sale were sent to the treasurer for safe keeping. Copies are kept in the Nesika Lodge. The Monster trail was widened to accommodate the new Kubota which has a slightly wider wheelbase than the tractor. Work and Recreational weekends on 6/20 and 7/4 generated \$246 in donations and fees. Jeff Lawton is working on getting a log splitter for the lodge.

We discussed whether we need liability insurance for the Kubota and, if so, alternatives for acquiring it. Eric will look into a separate insurance for the Kubota.

Tyee Report, Paul

The lodge was very active during the last week of June. Catlin Gabel School arrived on Sunday. Their first two days' work consisted of meadow and stream survey at Camas Prairie in the Barlow District. Their third day was a hike to Twin Lakes. On Thursday they camped in the John Day River area on the Warm Springs reservation where they built beaver dams. It is a pleasure to host them as each evening has an activity: square dance, a black and white movie (Some like it Hot), charades, skits, and/or campfires. They allowed no cell phones. \$1,990 lodge fees were collected.

On Monday, Bill Rude, Lori Leach and I re-laid the donated vinyl plank floor, replacing the laminate I flooded in January. Embarrassing long story, enough said! The games room was finally completed. Catlin teenagers filled the basement with wood. During the week, the furnace was serviced, oil delivered, tanks were filled (344 gallons) and the septic system was pumped after at least 40 years. Unsurprisingly, the tank pumping took longer than normal (3 hrs total) due to the extra water that had to be added to dilute the very solid waste at the bottom. The 6" suction pipe to the truck consistently kept blocking. Our tank is a 2500 gallon tank but we paid an extra 300 gallons of water for dilution. The final bill for the septic pumping was \$1800 due to the extra water that had to be added. At the work party, the carpets were cleaned and a storage for the sleds and tubes was built. Work started on the east side for flood control. This project will be an ongoing all summer.

Trips Report, Craig

There were 3 day trips during the month of June, which included a field trip to Camp Namanu, headed by Lori Leach. Wednesday night conditioning hikes are posted on the TCO calendar at <https://trailsclub.org/activities/calendar/>.

A CPR/AED/Wilderness First Aid custom certification class has been posted for Sept. 28, 2025, at Tyee for Trails Club members. Adventure Medics Training will be teaching this class. Please see the TCO Meetup site or contact Craig Gwydir at tripschair@trailsclub.org for more information.

The TCO Stormy Trails Committee cleared brush from the Basin road and cleared the following Nesika Lodge trails during the month of June: Elevator Shaft Trail, Franklin Connector Trail, Ornament Trail, and Basin Cutoff Trail. Thank you to the volunteers of the committee for this work.

Please email tripschair@trailsclub.org if you are interested in assisting with trail work, including trail scouting, restoration and maintenance.

Call for help: If you are interested in learning about adventures on the Multnomah Plateau and willing to help co-lead hikes and/or join a TCO trips planning committee, please join our "TCO Hike Leaders Meeting" this month, or send questions to tripschair@trailsclub.org.

Outdoor Ed and Outreach, vacant

Board level trustee needed!! If you want to know more about this position, please contact president@trailsclub.org

Leave No Trace Committee Report, Dolores via email

We focused on three of the Leave No Trace Principles on the Trails Club Facebook page related

to increased seasonal trail usage.

Principle #1: Plan Ahead and Prepare. Focused on the results of not being prepared.

Principle #5: Minimize Campfire Impact. 2-5 gallons of water are needed to fully extinguish a fire.

Principle #6: Protect Wildlife. When backpacking in bear country, separate cooking, sleeping and food storage areas by 200 feet each.

OLD BUSINESS

Policies & Practices document for TCO

We will discuss at length at August meeting. Please read through the doc and be ready to discuss.

501c3 Status, Lori

Lori spoke with one of StartChurch's supervisors. She asked Lori a few clarifying questions and said she would resubmit our articles of incorporation to the state of Oregon. Lori checked in with the State and determined that our document had been received. It may take 4 to 6 weeks for the state to process it.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar at Nesika

Jeff Lawton proposed, "If the board approves, I would like to set up, at my own expense, a small 100 watt solar array with an inverter outside the dorm at Nesika that could be used for charging phones and electric power tools or possibly a few lights inside and outside the dorm."

Joel stated, "I would include the propane stove/oven that requires electricity for the oven thermostat. As long as power tools and heaters are not allowed, a battery can be quite small. It's all about wattage."

Eric said, "I too would like to see if Nesika could use solar/battery power more effectively. I would actually like to see us put a plan in place for a larger solar array and batteries that could keep the generator from running continuously. A few issues I see are the safety of lithium batteries, battery costs/maintenance, visibility of panels and the aesthetics. Not sure how much those things would affect experimentation and limited use in dorm, but are things the board/chair should consider."

Trisha added, "I have an off grid cabin with a generator that charges 8 golf cart batteries. The batteries run through an inverter that provides 110 power to the cabin. The inverter also allows for solar charging to the batteries. I don't have solar yet but it is in the works. I can use lights, starlink satellite dish, computer, monitor and a TV for 24 hours. Bigger wattage items like a toaster and microwave deplete the battery, so I avoid using those items unless I have the generator on. If the lodge replaced light bulbs with LED lights and we all become more frugal with electricity use, we could implement a similar setup at the lodge.

My system of batteries/inverter cost about \$3,000, not counting the electrician to put it all together."

Moved and seconded to accept Jeff's offer. While he's doing that, we should look into a bigger solar conversion and get a better plan in place. Unanimously approved.

Our generator is overkill for most of what we do at Nesika. We could run all the lights easily on a small solar array. Putting panels across the roof of the dorm would more than cover our needs at the lodge.

Social Chair, Jeff Churchill

Jeff discussed a mid August social, maybe at Rooster Rock, McGiver Park, Glenn Atto Park or Camp Namanu.

Adjourned at 7:57

Next meeting, 8/12/25, zoom

Submitted by Rebecca Knudeson, Secretary

Board of Directors



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Drott**

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Reitz**

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Outdoor Education
and Outreach

VACANT

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g



Trips

**Craig
Gwydir**

TripsChair@TrailsClub.org



Standing Committees



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Social@TrailsClub.org

org



Leave No Trace

**Dolores
Niebergall**

LeaveNoTrace@TrailsClub.org



History

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History@TrailsClub.org

org



Your Advertisement Here

Adds from TCO members for mutual benefit can be placed in the Trail Blazer



If you would like to place an add send your input to: Blazer@TrailsClub.org

Reminders

For activities such as bicycle, snowshoe, and XC skiing check with the leaders for the difficulty level. Good equipment for the specific activity is required for all events. For hikes, snowshoes:

- **Class A** - Shorter, less strenuous activity, typically 4 to 8 miles, less than 1500 feet elevation gain.
- **Class B** - Moderate to difficult, typically 6 to 12 miles, up to 3000 feet of elevation gain.
- **Class C** - Long and difficult, strong experienced participants only, typically over 8 miles, and over 3000 feet of elevation gain. Boots are recommended for B/C hikes.

Harsh conditions may increase the exertion and skill required; be prepared. Contact the trip leader if you have any questions and to let him or her know that you will be attending. Bring the 10 Essentials and please, no alcohol. Pets allowed on designated trips only.

Stay with the group and follow the leader. The leader is responsible for the group's safety. The leader determines which route is taken. The leader has authority to determine if a participant is prepared for the activity. Group safety must come first.

Fees

There is no charge to Trails Club members for day activities; non-members pay \$2. Please contribute to any carpooling expenses at the rate of \$.20 per mile. With multiple riders the driver can collect up to \$.50 per mile shared by all the riders. Other fees may apply.

If you have RSVP'd for an activity at a lodge involving food expense and are unable to participate, you are obligated to do one of the following: Cancel before the food is purchased, find someone to take your place, or pay for your share of the food.

All activities must be approved by the appropriate activity coordinator or the Trips Trustee.

TRAIL BLAZER

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Trails Club of Oregon

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Portland, OR 97268-1095

Organized 1915

Incorporated 1923

Member of the Federation of Western Outdoors Clubs (FWOC)

Electronic subscription is included with membership.

Send address changes and club correspondence to:

Membership@TrailsClub.org or the address above.

The purpose of the Trails Club is to foster and stimulate interest in hiking, climbing, skiing, camping and other similar outdoor activities and to promote activities of a social nature for the benefit of its members.

The Club's interests and concerns are conservation of natural beauty and resources of the country.

All Club activities are affected by the voluntary participation of the members.

Membership requirements include an approved outdoor activity, a scheduled lodge visit, recommendations by two members within a one-year period, approval by the Board of Trustees, and payment of \$50 in dues and a \$15 entrance fee.

Board Meetings

Usually second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm, over Zoom.

See the calendar on the [TCO website](#) for the link if you wish to attend.

Contact the President prior to a meeting if you have an issue to bring to the board.

Trails Club of Oregon & Meetup Websites

Our website (TrailsClub.org) is the official site for club events and information.

There is also a [Trails Club Meetup site](#) that allows event planners to organize TCO events online, and publicize these events to a wider audience ([Meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon/events/](https://www.meetup.com/Trails-Club-of-Oregon/events/)).

However, all events posted on the TCO Meetup site should be added to our TCO website as well.

While we try to get every event in the Trail Blazer and on the Trails Club website (www.trailsclub.org), some events, especially those planned on short notice, may not appear in The Blazer.

Use the Calendar menu item for a listing of events.

Registration on the website is not required to view the events.

Also: All may use the Payment menu item on our website to pay your membership dues.

You can pay for all members in a household in one transaction.

Send write-ups to: Blazer@TrailsClub.org

Submissions are due by the fifteenth of the month prior to publication.

Trail Blazer Editor: Joel Reitz

Send pictures, new events, corrections and anything else for the

Trails Club of Oregon website to: webmaster@TrailsClub.org

